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Dear Karen F.Grimmer:

April 25

I would like to encourage all members of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Commission, in their deliberations over jet ski bans, to read two articles that originally appeared in THE SACRAMENTO BEE.

(1) "JET SKIS: MUST WE LEAVE THE WILDERNESS TO FIND PEACE AND QUIET?" It concerns the industrialization and ruin of outdoor experience.

(2) The second, "PERIL ON THE WATER," explains why jet skis are involved in disproportional numbers of accidents, injuries and fatalities. (On line, go to: bluewaternetwork.org. Click on "Library". Scroll to "Why Jet Skis Kill".

The most important social issue, safety on the water, is often overlooked. Please read the definitive NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REPORT on jet ski steering defects and accidents. (The report, called "Personal Watercraft Safety," May 1998 can be obtained from the NTSB, 202/314-6551) There is overwhelming evidence that, not mere behavior, but design defects, cause accidents. Jet skis have no rudder, no braking power; they lose steering control when the throttle is turned off.

As statistics show, as hundreds of liability suits and out-of court settlements show as well; jet skis are deadly stunt machines.

Public agencies not only have the authority, they have responsibility to protect public safety--riders, kayakers, surfers, divers, swimmers, anglers—all recreationists who use public waters in good faith. It is irresponsible to allow brakeless, steering-defective high speed stunt machines into public waters, (not to mention our blessed sanctuaries of nature).

Please feel free to call me for discussion. I have researched jet skis for years and would be glad to testify at an appropriate meeting. I am a journalist and librarian with the Alameda County Library System.

Sincerely,


Paul Rockwell